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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

Feb. 20, 1974

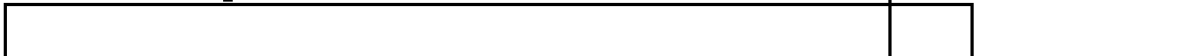


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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Envoy to Bonn Selected

Jiri Goetz has been named Czechoslovakia's first ambassador to the Federal Republic. As a deputy foreign minister, Goetz supervised the negotiations with Bonn that led to the establishment of diplomatic relations last December.



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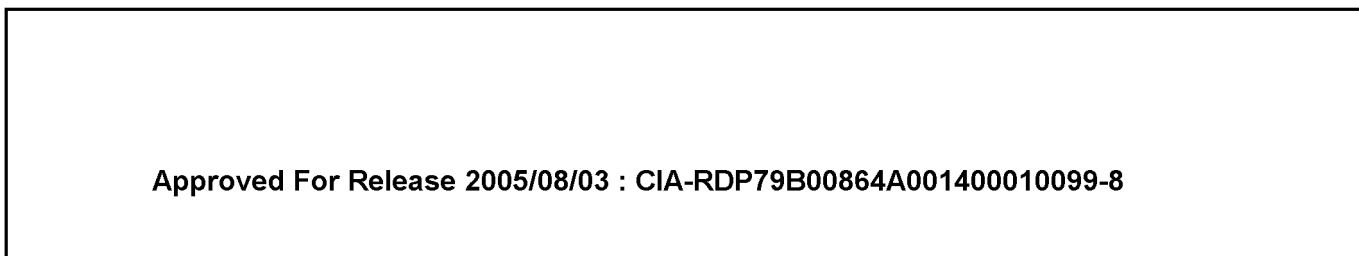
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YUGOSLAVIA

Confusion Forecast for New Electoral System

A member of the Serb party central committee warned a Belgrade audience on Tuesday that the new system of choosing candidates for local, republic and federal government offices has too many political unknowns. He warned that "anti-self management forces" could exploit the new procedures to usurp citizens' rights. As a solution to this problem, he proposed that the party step in and smooth out all the kinks.

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This suggestion not only risks open party involvement in government affairs, but is also more characteristic of Soviet than of Yugoslav practices. We doubt that the party leadership will buy any plan that so blatantly compromises its claims of permitting "free elections." The system for selecting candidates is itself hopelessly complicated and, being new, could turn this spring's elections into a Chinese firedrill.

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POLANDMore Ideological Conformity for Polish Troops

The official army daily, Zolnierz Wolnosci, reports that the political administrations of the Polish Armed Forces and the Soviet Army Northern Group recently signed an accord on "ideopolitical" cooperation for 1974. The agreement, apparently the first of its kind between an East European military establishment and a resident Soviet force, pledges closer cooperation, particularly in "ideopolitical and educational work at various levels of command." The Soviets thus appear to have expanded their capability to indoctrinate domestic forces. In fact, the Polish pact could be the forerunner of similar agreements elsewhere in Eastern Europe where Soviet forces are stationed.

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# YUGOSLAVIA

## Trade With CEMA Countries Reviewed

Marko Orlandic, the Yugoslav cabinet member responsible for Belgrade's relations with CEMA, recently granted an interview to an economic journal in which he summarized Yugoslav trade with CEMA as a whole and with individual countries. Orlandic indicated that overall trade with CEMA countries "should amount" to \$9 billion during the 1971-75 plan period, an increase of 94% over the last five-year plan. He listed significant increases in bilateral trade last year with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and the USSR but omitted mention of East Germany, Bulgaria and Hungary. The omission of Hungary may reflect the fact that Budapest's economic relations with Belgrade blossomed earlier. The exclusion of Bulgaria and East Germany may, however relate to the fact that Yugoslav political ties with Sofia and Pankow also lag significantly behind those with other members of CEMA.

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